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Executive Registry

85- 1074

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

13 March 1985

Executive Director

NOTE FOR:

Arms Control Intelligence Staff

SUBJECT: Your Idea for Analysis of Arms
Control Issues

Mr. Nasbe:

Thanks for your suggestion for
improving analysis of arms control issues.
I find it hard to disagree with anything in
the proposal, but must confess that it left
me with the impression that it contained
more slogans than well thought-out
activities.

We would, of course, encourage any
concrete suggestion for improved analytic
effort in the arms control arena. You might
consider drawing up a more specific and
detailed set of proposals for our review or,
alternatively, consider using either the
Exceptional Analyst Program or the
Production Enhancement Initiative program as
the vehicle for pursuing this topic.

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ACIS - 1045/85
5 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Intelligence

THROUGH: Chief, Arms Control Intelligence Staff ✓

FROM:
Arms Control Intelligence Staff

SUBJECT: Creative Idea for Analysis of Arms Control Issues

1. This memorandum submits a proposal for your consideration, in response to your 28 November 1984 open solicitation of creative problem solving ideas.

2. I propose that the DI undertake an aggressive research program to develop analytic methodologies that can be applied to arms control monitoring. Some specifics:

- o Goal. To obtain and make available to analysts of arms control monitoring issues the best available hardware and applications software that can be in place and operating by the end of this project's life.
- o Approach. Seek state-of-the-art technology (focusing on artificial intelligence); leapfrog existing analytic capabilities; seek the best--but obtain the best available at the time desired; innovate first, make evolutionary improvements later.
- o Timing. The project should be of specified duration (e.g., three years or five years) with its phase-out incorporated in the planning.
- o Why? The task of monitoring arms control agreements will get harder in the future. Our ability to compete and perform well will depend not so much on improvements in collection as on improvements in our ability to do analysis.

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o How?

1. Establish contacts with others in and outside government who have been working on concepts, hardware, and software relevant to analysis of arms control issues. Visit governmental agencies, as well as universities, think-tanks, consultants, and industry.
2. Obtain copies of the work already done by others.
3. Establish a computer work station (current state-of-the-art) that can be used to experiment with, test, and evaluate analytic methodologies.
4. Let contracts for new methodological research (including an "expert system" for analysis of arms control monitoring issues).
5. Establish a prototype work station (future state-of-the-art) to take advantage of technological advances.
6. Procure a network of the new work stations for arms control analysts.

o Who? Organizationally, this project would directly relate to the subject matter of ACIS and the functional responsibilities of ASG. Both organizations should share responsibility.

o Size of Effort. I envision this project as requiring at least one full-time analyst, and part-time secretarial support. The effort could be expanded and prioritized to include as many as three analysts and one secretary full-time.

o Resources. One-to-four people. Office space. Supplies. Dollars for travel; for purchases of documents, hardware, software; and for contracts. []

3. Clearly, this proposal reflects my personal interest in improving the way we do business in arms control support, especially in light of the prospect that the job will be harder in the future. I would certainly like to be the person responsible for carrying out this project. []

4. I understand that, under the "Excellence" concept, ideas such as this one--small-scale, "skunkworks" operations--are encouraged and supported; with optimism that they will succeed and an understanding that they could fail. My sense is that, while this project seeks to innovate, its risk of failure is minimized by the fact that much methodological improvement can be done successfully and with large effect even with a less than total success of the overall project. []

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5. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my efforts to this project.

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cc: C/ACIS
C/ASG

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